

SPICA, INC.

5/7/50
Enc 3 to
SAPC 7002
COPY 1 OF 1

133 HOLLAND STREET, WEST SOMERVILLE 44, MASSACHUSETTS

Telephone PROSPECT 6-7071

May 4, 1956

Mr. Richard S. Perkin, President
The Perkin-Elmer Corporation
Main Avenue
Norwalk, Connecticut

Dear Dick:

I am asking to have this letter forwarded to you in Europe in the interest of saving a bit of time, and hope you will find it possible to acknowledge it. Several members of the Amateur Telescope Makers at the Harvard Observatory have expressed interest from time to time in a design I mentioned to them of an off-axis Maksutov Collimator System of the form that Rod is having made up in two focal lengths. This collimator should make a very fine astronomical telescope, and avoids the usual difficulty with spider support system. Also, since this off-axis Maksutov System has in effect a sealed optical path, the mirrors should remain bright and free of dust for years.

Last fall I designed two such systems for Rod, the first having a 4-inch clear aperture and a 100-inch equivalent focal length. The second has an 11-inch clear aperture and a 300-inch focal length. This form of system is quite compact, however, being essentially a Cassegrain type.

Since this optical design is in effect owned by The Perkin-Elmer Corporation, I thought you might like to consider the request and perhaps write [redacted] at the Amateur's Club at the Harvard Observatory to give your consent to my sending him the design figures. Probably there is no patent protection possible on this design anyway, since it is a straightforward modification of Maksutov's original version, although I believe a more convenient one.

I hope you are having a fine and successful trip abroad, and Elizabeth and I were both delighted to hear that Gladys has flown over to join you. Get some rest, and I hope you will find the trip most refreshing.

With best regards,

Jim
James G. Baker

JGB/11